

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

MEMORANDUM

U. S. CONSUMER PRODUCT
SAFETY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207
JAN 28 1999

TO : Kenneth P. Giles, Public Affairs Specialist, EXPA
Todd A. Stevenson, F.O.I. Officer, OS

THROUGH : Mary Ann Danello, Ph.D., Associate Executive Director,
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Susan Ahmed, Ph.D., Director, Division of Hazard *sa*
Analysis (EHHA)
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FROM : Susan C. Aitken, Ph.D., Pharmacologist, EHHS *SCA*

SUBJECT : National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) Data on
Pediatric Fatalities for 1996

The NCHS data for 1996 pediatric fatalities is analyzed. Health Sciences staff prepared a table (attached) including all annual records since 1972 for deaths of children under five involving household products and involving aspirin.

bcc: Debbie Tinsworth

Attachment:

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Products Identified
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Comments Processed.

The National Center for Health Statistics in Washington, D.C. receives mortality reports from all 50 states. The annual data reports show that the number of deaths involving all household products among children under five years of age declined since 1972. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission also examines the number of deaths resulting from the accidental ingestion of aspirin-containing products. The first regulation passed under the Poison Prevention Packaging Act required child-resistant packaging for aspirin. At the time the regulation passed, aspirin products were the most frequently ingested product by young children. Results appear in Table 1 and Figure 1.

TABLE 1. DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5 INVOLVING HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

Deaths Due To All Household Chemicals

Deaths Due To Aspirin Products

<u>Year</u>	<u># Deaths</u>	<u>Decline since 1972</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u># Deaths</u>	<u>Decline since 1972</u>
1972	216	---	1972	46	---
1973	149	31%	1973	26	43%
1974	135	38%	1974	24	48%
1975	114	47%	1975	17	63%
1976	105	51%	1976	25	46%
1977	94	56%	1977	11	76%
1978	81	63%	1978	13	72%
1979	78	64%	1979	8	83%
1980	73	66%	1980	12	74%
1981	55	75%	1981	6	87%
1982	67	69%	1982	5	89%
1983	55	75%	1983	7	85%
1984	64	70%	1984	7	85%
1985	56	74%	1985	0	100%
1986	59	73%	1986	2	96%
1987	31	86%	1987	3	93%
1988	42	81%	1988	3	93%
1989	55	75%	1989	2	96%
1990	49	77%	1990	1	98%
1991	62	71%	1991	2	96%
1992	42	81%	1992	0	100%
1993	50	77%	1993	2	96%
1994	34	84%	1994	1	98%
1995	29	87%	1995	1	98%
1996	47	78%	1996	1	98%

Source: NCHS, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Mortality Branch, 1996

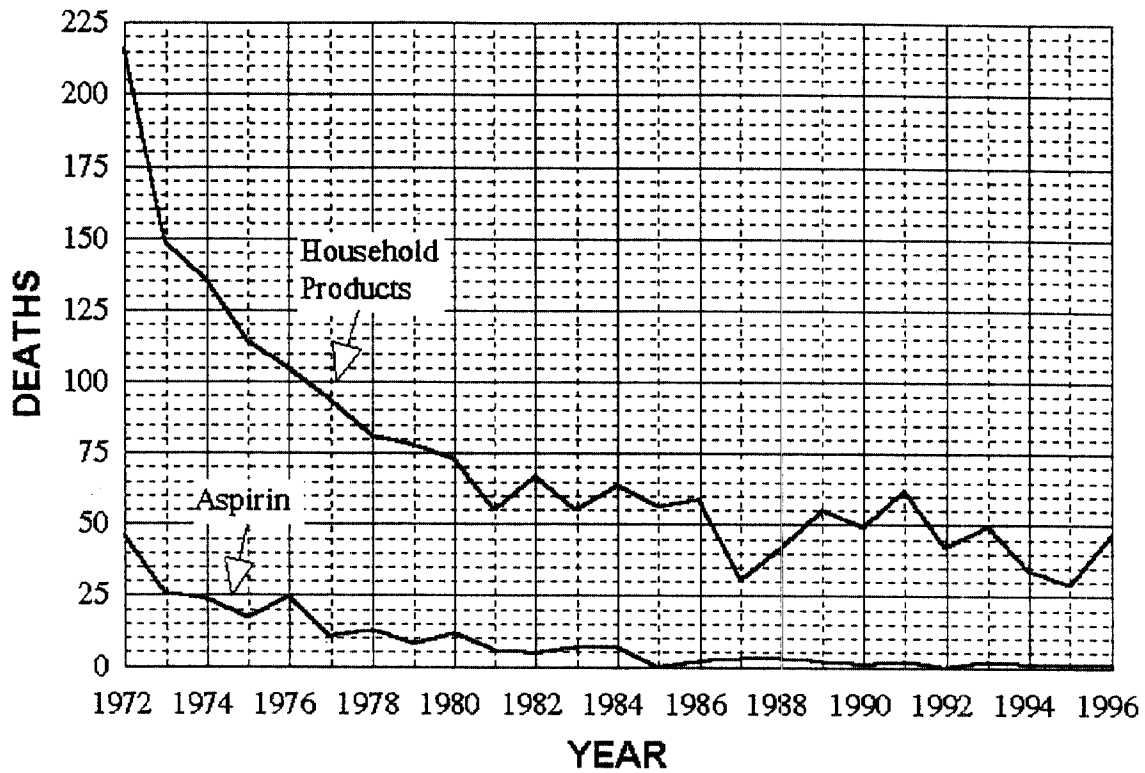


Figure 1. Number of deaths of children under 5 years old in the U.S. involving all household products (upper curve) and involving accidental ingestion of aspirin-containing products (lower curve).

Source: NCHS, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Mortality Branch, 1996